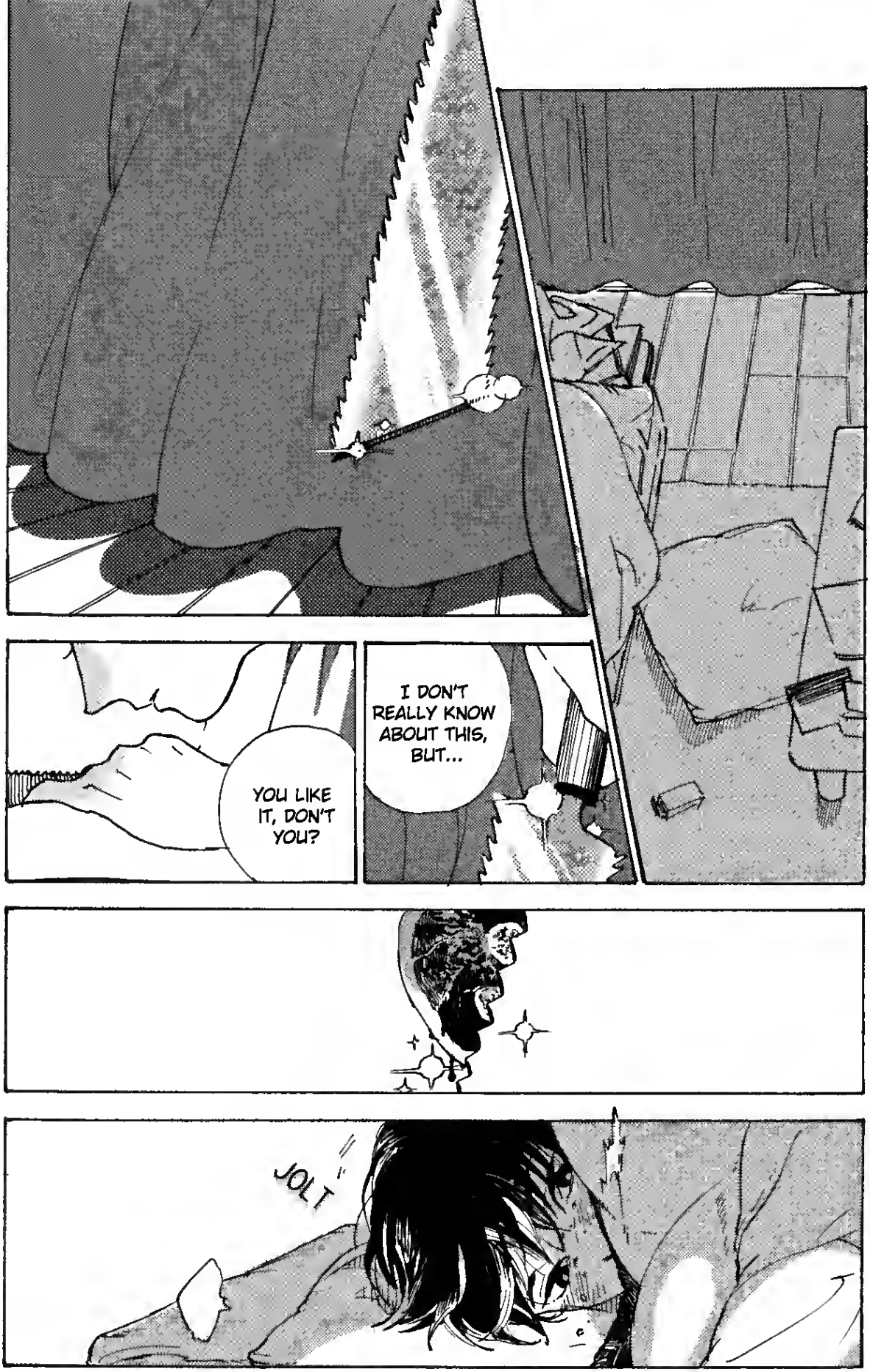
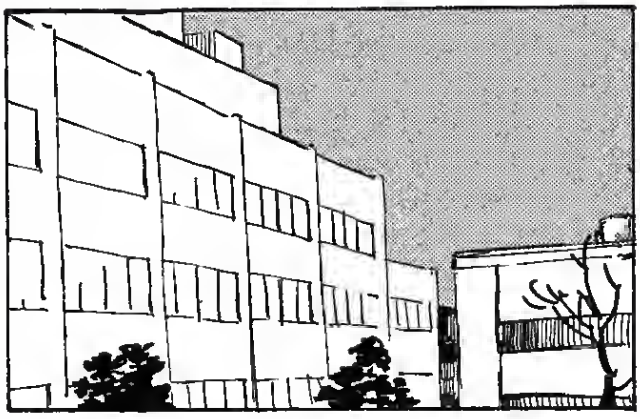
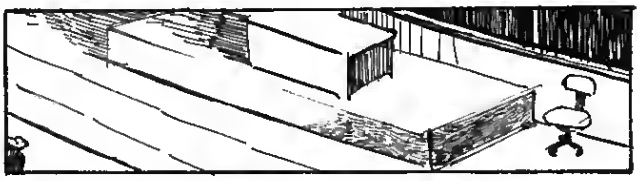
3
(Yoru wa Tomodachi)


I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT...
YOU LIKE IT, DON'T YOU?
JOLT

……
FLICKER
FLICKER
……

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
RECENTLY...





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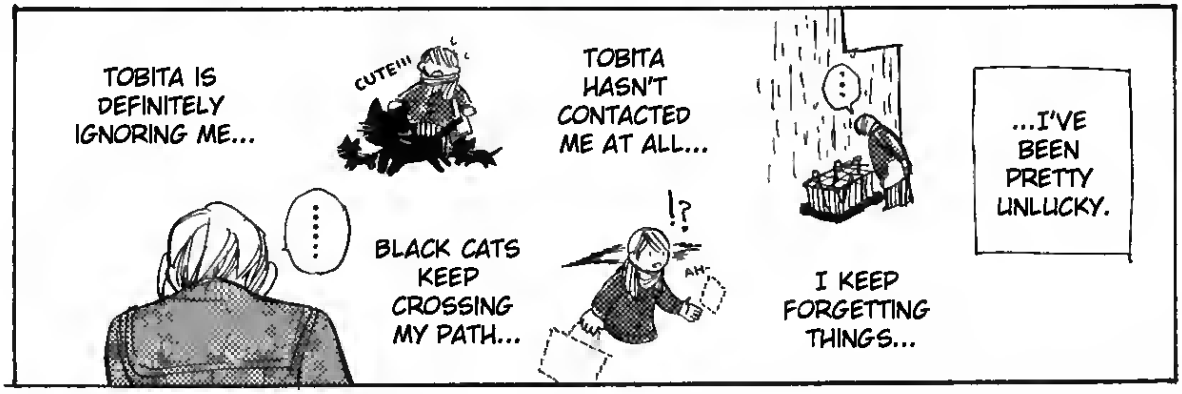
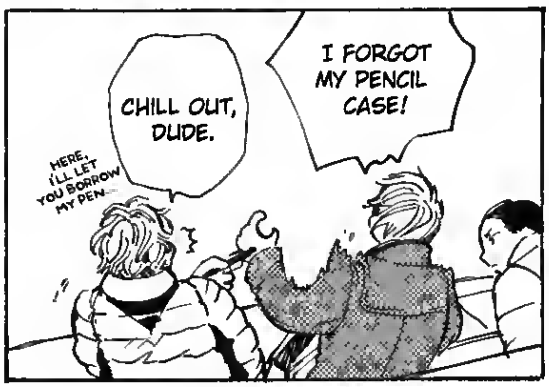

TOBITA IS DEFINITELY IGNORING ME...
CUTE!!!
TOBITA HASN'T CONTACTED ME AT ALL...
...I'VE BEEN PRETTY UNLUCKY.
.....
BLACK CATS KEEP CROSSING MY PATH...
!?
AH!
I KEEP FORGETTING THINGS...

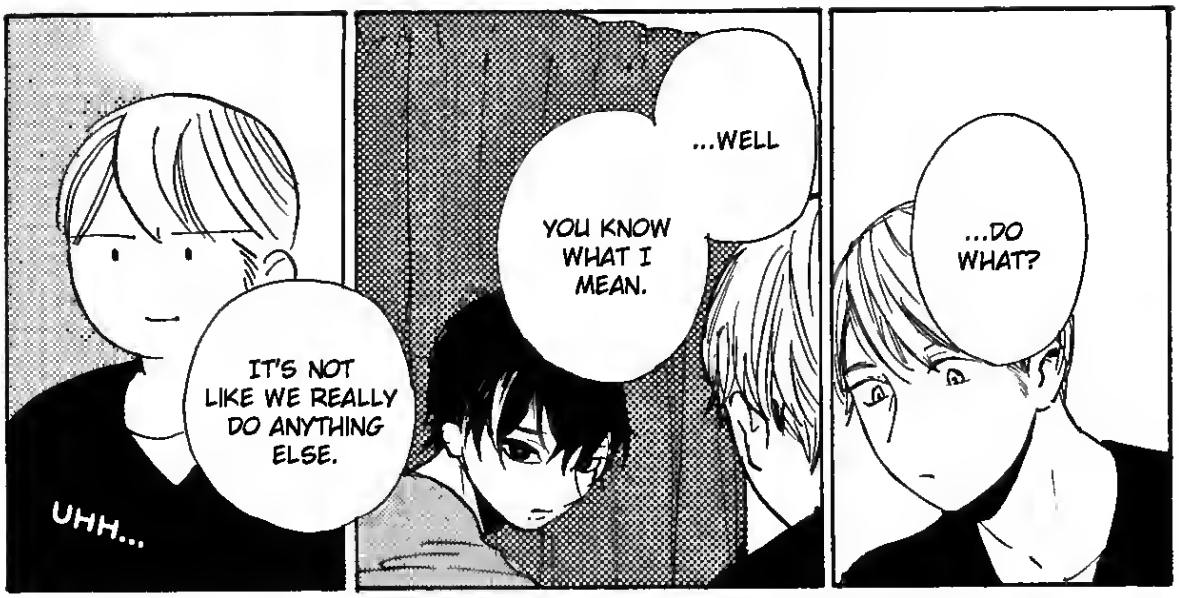

I FORGOT MY PENCIL CASE!
CHILL OUT, DUDE.
HERE, I'LL LET YOU BORROW MY PEN.

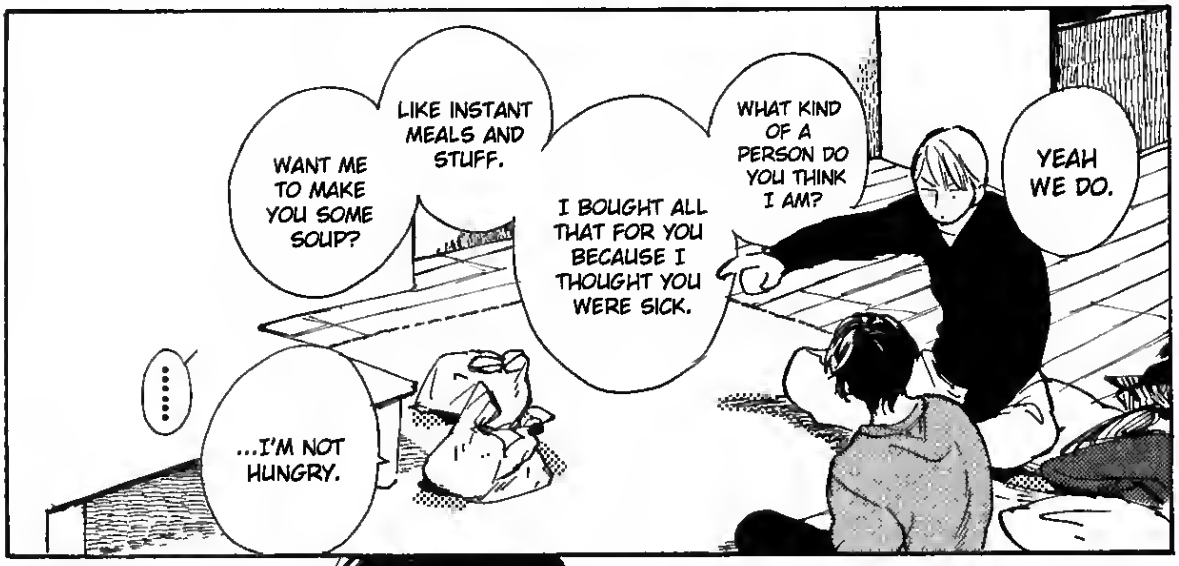
RUSTLE

TAP
TAP TAP
I GUESS TODAY'S JUST ONE OF THOSE DAYS...
MAN, I'M REALLY OUT OF IT...
BEEP BEEP
YEAH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
...YEAH, I GUESS.
RIGHT.
A COLD?
HUH... OKAY...
I MEAN, NOT REALLY...
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO EARLIER?
HUH?
OH, OKAY, THAT'S FINE.
GOTCHA.

I GOT BETTER.
I TEXTED YOU, BUT...
...
OPEN
...TOBITA
...YOUR COLD...?
THEY'RE SNACKS
THIS IS FOR YOU.
HE DEFINITELY FORGOT TO SEND IT.
I'M SORRY...
I GUESS IT DIDN'T SEND?
YEAH.
.....
.....
WANNA COME IN?

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?
WHY?
THUD
HE'S JUST GONNA LEAVE THEM THERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU SPENT ALL DAY IN BED.
THAT'S BECAUSE I DID SPEND ALL DAY IN BED.
'WHY?'...
I FEEL SOMEHOW LIKE...
HM?
...THEN NEXT TIME I HAVE A FEVER I'LL CALL YOU.
WELL, IF YOU HAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO CALL THAT'S FINE...
WANNA DO IT?
HE'S A BIT CLOSER THAN USUAL?


UHH...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE REALLY DO ANYTHING ELSE.
...WELL
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
...DO WHAT?


WANT ME TO MAKE YOU SOME SOUP?
LIKE INSTANT MEALS AND STUFF.
I BOUGHT ALL THAT FOR YOU BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK.
WHAT KIND OF A PERSON DO YOU THINK I AM?
YEAH WE DO.
.....
...I'M NOT HUNGRY.

.....
THEN AFTER YOU EAT LATER...

...
YOU KEPT YOUR HAIR SHORT ALL THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
TOBITA
YOU'VE DEFINITELY LOST SOME WEIGHT.
PLUS YOUR HAIR IS GETTING A BIT LONG...
WANT ME TO CUT IT?
YEAH...
SORRY FOR BEING BORING, HAHA.
...
I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND...
'YEAH?'
CUT IT.
REALLY?
YEAH.
JUUUUST KIDDING...
...

THOSE SCISSORS CAN CUT ANYTHING.
NO, IT'LL GET MESSY.
HE ALWAYS COMPLAINS ABOUT HAVING A HARD TIME CHEWING.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
BUT THIS TIME IT FEELS A LITTLE OFF.
WANT ANOTHER BLANKET? ALSO, ARE THESE THE ONLY SCISSORS YOU HAVE?
BUT YOU'RE JUST RECOVERING...
SHOULDN'T WE DO THIS INSIDE?
...YOU CAN BE PRETTY EXASPERATING YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE MY LUCK'S BEEN DOWN PRETTY RECENTLY.
WHILE I WAS FALLING ASLEEP.
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT YOU, MASUMI.

WAS IT A GOOD DREAM?
HM?
IT WAS OKAY.
SQUIRM...
YOU'RE DRESSING ME IN TOO MANY LAYERS. IT'S HEAVY.
...I SEE.
I GUESS THINGS FEEL OKAY BETWEEN US?
I... LIKE THE COLD, AND THE DARK.
THIS IS NICE.
YOU KNOW, IF YOU CUT YOUR HAIR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT DRESSED LIKE THIS THE NEIGHBORS MIGHT FIND YOU ODD.
MM...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY SURE YOU AREN'T COLD?

HE'S IN A TALKATIVE MOOD TODAY.
WHICH DAY?
ARE YOU A WINTER BABY?
SUMMER.
AUGUST 31ST.
THAT'S EASY TO REMEMBER.
THANKS!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
YUP.
I HAVE A BAD MEMORY!!
THAT WAS LAST WEEK.
BY THE WAY,
MY BIRTHDAY'S DECEMBER 12TH.
I'VE NEVER KNOWN THE BIRTHDAY OF SOMEONE I DATED.
UNTIL NOW
THAT'S WHEN...
AUGUST... NINE MONTHS BEFORE THAT...
SO IF HE WAS BORN IN AUGUST...

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE DATED SOMEONE THE SAME AGE, TOO.
...?
...
...SO THEY WERE ALWAYS OLDER THAN YOU?
YEAH.
WHAT... DATING?
WAIT.
TOBITA AND I...
WHAT ARE WE?
I MEAN, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HIS ANGLE IS.
...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE...
...WELL...
I DOUBT WE'D BE CONSIDERED "NORMAL."

UMM...
EASY WORDS COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO JUST GETS TO SIT.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU BLURT WEIRD THINGS OUT OF NOWHERE.
.....
YOU HAVEN'T MOVED YOUR HANDS IN A WHILE.
NO IT CAN'T.
GUESS HE'S NOT IN THE MOOD.
HEY, DID YOU KNOW CUTTING HAIR CAN BE A FORM OF MASOCHISM?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD PROLONGED CONTACT WITHOUT SEX.

REALLY?
THANK YOU.
BRUSH
WELL
WORKING HARD TO MAKE YOU'RE CUTE IS FOR MY SAKE AS MUCH AS IT IS FOR YOURS.
THEY LOOK LIKE THE PLANET VENUS.
OH.
I GOT IT.
YOUR EYES ARE SHINING REALLY BEAUTIFULLY.

HE WANTS TO FUCK.
YOUR EYES REMIND ME OF GALAXIES. THEY'RE QUITE PRETTY.
.....
HEY MASUMI
I WON'T MIND IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY MAKE ME BLEED A LITTLE.
.....
TWITCH
I'D RATHER NOT.

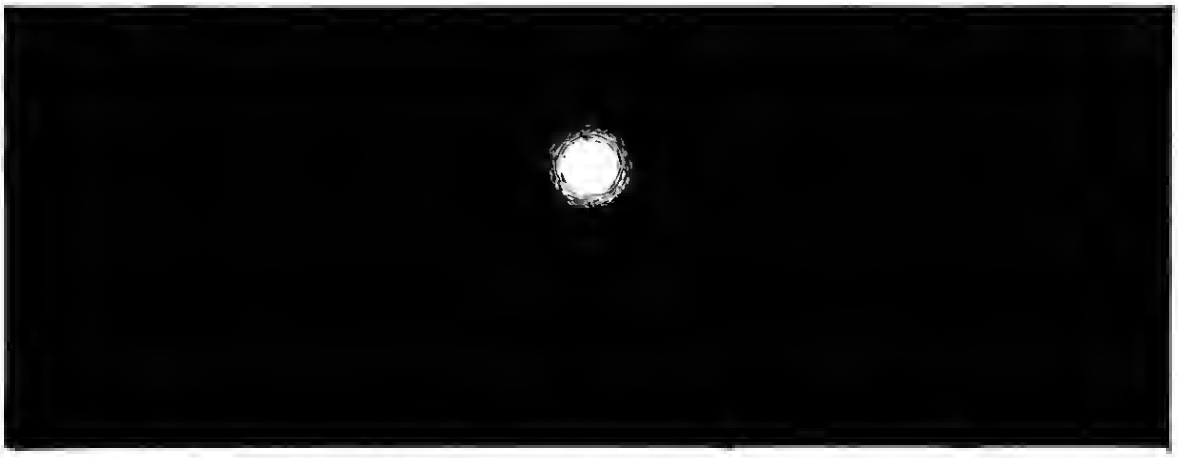
...M
NN...
NGH-
A-
AH
AH...
YOU'RE RIGHT. THESE CUT VERY WELL.

HA-
AHH...
NGH..!
AH...
IT HURTS...
.....
SINCE YOU TOOK IT OFF
I REFUSE TO DO IT.
YOU SLIPPED OFF YOUR BLINDFOLD?
...
AH

TREMBLE
DO THE REST YOURSELF.
I'LL BE YOUR AUDIENCE.
GO AHEAD.
STROKE
...MM
AH
HUH
YOU CAN DO BETTER...
THERE YOU GO...
IF YOU DON'T TOUCH YOURSELF WITH A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM WE'LL BE WAITING FOREVER FOR YOU TO COME.

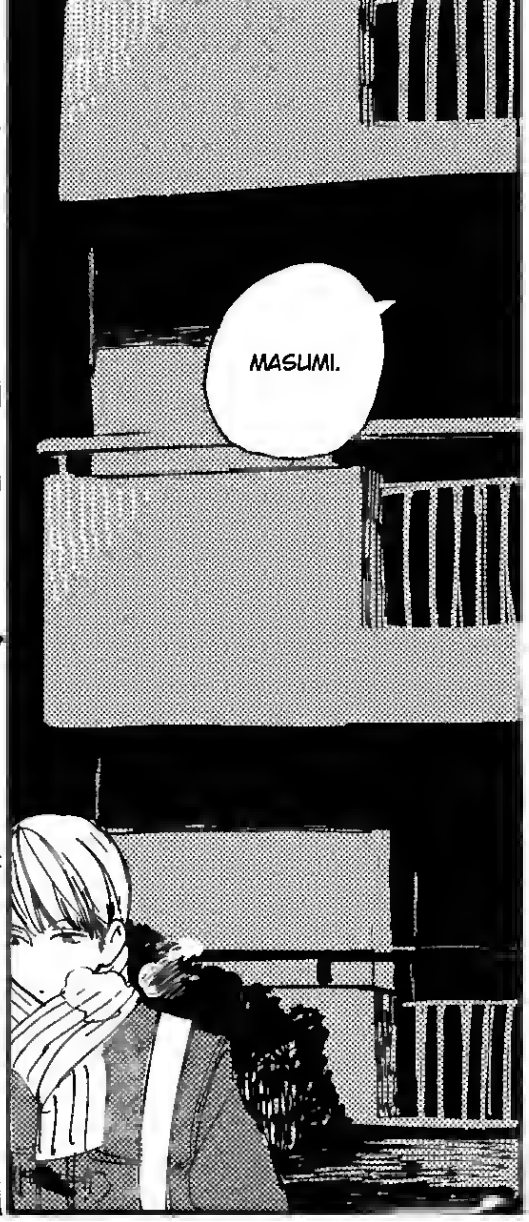
HAA...
CAN I KISS YOU?
AH
CLINK

HA...
SQUEEZE
...
MASUMI.



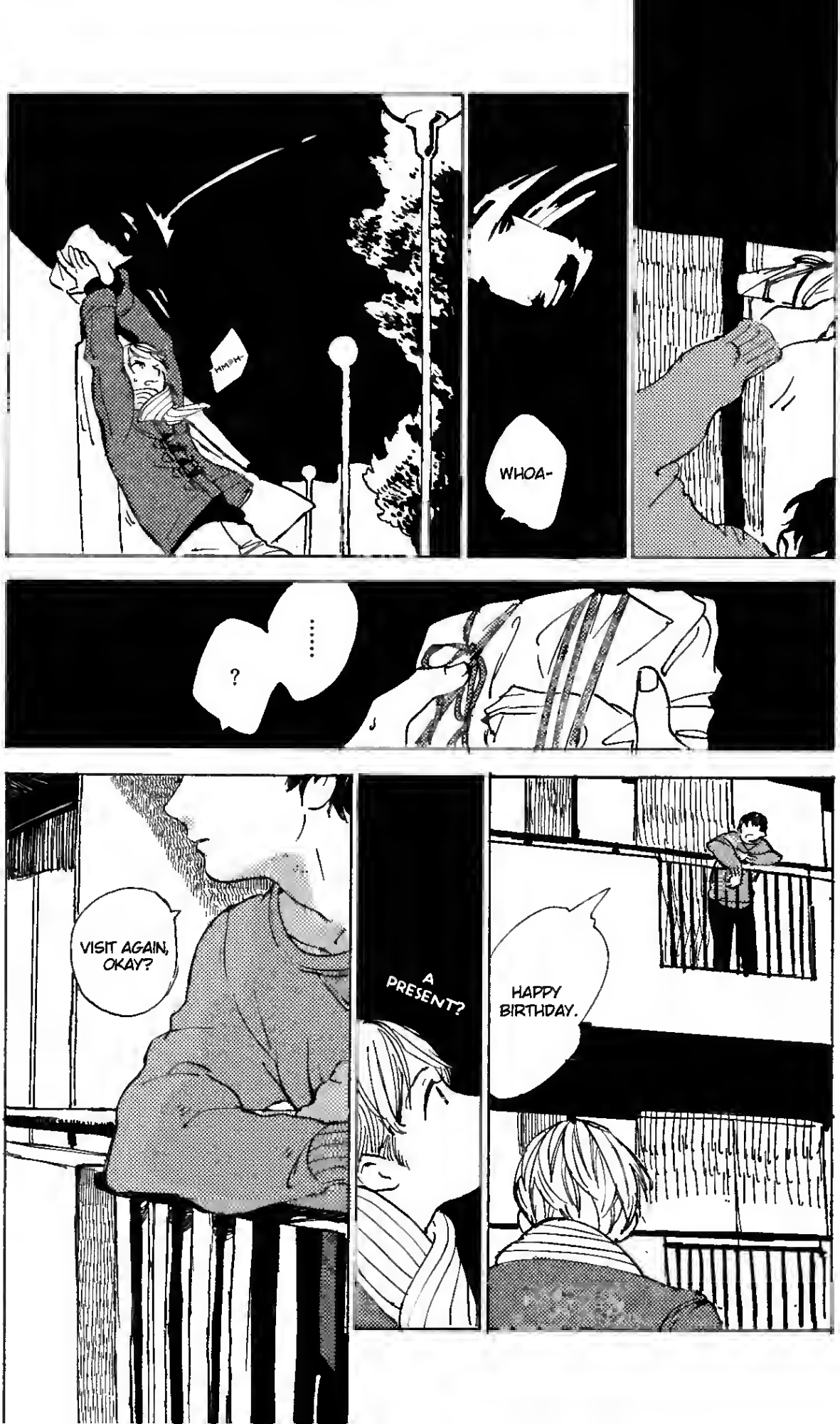
THE MOON IS TOO BRIGHT...

FOR SOME REASON, I'M REALLY TIRED TODAY...
WELL, I'M DEFINITELY BEING "ACTIVE".
WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT DATING, RIGHT?
I MEAN, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT...
MAYBE I JUST NEED TO GET OVER THIS...


MASUMI.

HUH?

I'M GONNA TOSS SOMETHING OVER.
BE CAREFUL.
OKAY-
UM.
WAIT, WHAT?

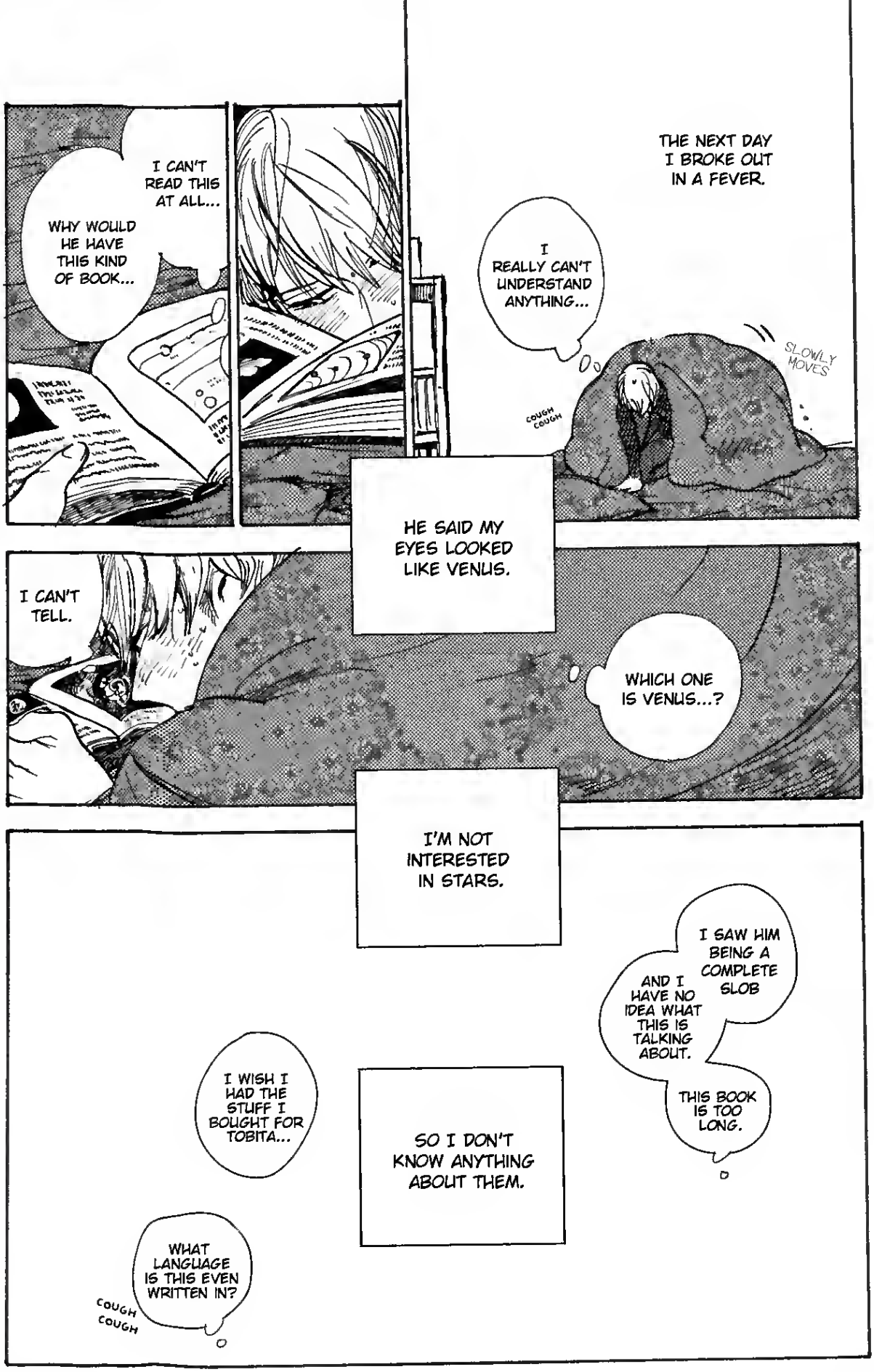

HMPH-
WHOA-
.....
?
VISIT AGAIN, OKAY?
A PRESENT?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

SLIP
WOAH
WAIT
I COULDN'T HEAR Y-
WHAT?
TH
THANK-

IT HAD A LOT OF PHOTOS AND PICTURES OF STARS, FILLED WITH NOTES AND ANNOTATIONS IN TINY TEXT FROM FOREIGN LANGUAGES. IT WAS A WEIRD, OLD BOOK. SOME KIND OF ANTIQUE.

TOBITA BASICALLY USED THE BAG I GAVE HIM AS WRAPPING PAPER AND TIED IT TOGETHER WITH SOME RANDOM STRING, BUT

IN ESSENCE


I CAN'T READ THIS AT ALL...
WHY WOULD HE HAVE THIS KIND OF BOOK...
THE NEXT DAY I BROKE OUT IN A FEVER.
I REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...
SLOWLY MOVES
COUGH COUGH
HE SAID MY EYES LOOKED LIKE VENUS.
I CAN'T TELL.
WHICH ONE IS VENUS...?
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN STARS.
I SAW HIM BEING A COMPLETE SLOB
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS IS TALKING ABOUT.
THIS BOOK IS TOO LONG.
I WISH I HAD THE STUFF I BOUGHT FOR TOBITA...
SO I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.
WHAT LANGUAGE IS THIS EVEN WRITTEN IN?
COUGH COUGH